

Livingston County

Soil & Water Conservation District

January—March 2015 Newsletter

<http://www.swcd.mo.gov/livingston>

Livingston County has two State Winners!



The Missouri Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts (MASWCD) held its annual meeting at Tan-Tar-A Resort December 10-12, 2014. Livingston County had two state winners at the Awards Banquet held December 11. John & Janet Cramer of Ludlow were named as the State Conservationist of the Year. This award recognizes landowners who show they care about conserving our natural resources.

Brittany Stanfield of Chillicothe was the 10th-12th grade category winner in the Poster Contest. Her poster will advance to the national contest to be held in February 2015. Brittany's winning poster is pictured here.



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2015 Poster Contest Underway

The Livingston County SWCD will have its annual poster contest again this year for any 4th-12th grade student in Livingston County. The theme is “Local Heroes—Your Hardworking Pollinators”. Informational presentations will be given to any school that would like for our staff to come explain the poster contest to their students. It’s a great opportunity for the students to learn about the topic (pollinators this year) and to understand the rules of the contest and tips for making a great poster. The poster contest will be launched January 20 and completed posters will be due February 20. We are looking forward to another great poster contest!

For more information: call our office or go to <http://www.nacdnet.org/education/contests/poster/2015-poster-contest/2015>



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State Cost-Share Termination Date



If you currently have a contract for State Cost-Share Assistance please take note of the termination date. This is the date that your practice must be constructed, check-out complete, all receipts turned into our office and the payment form signed by.

FY 2015 Cost-Share (July 1, 2014-December 31, 2014)

Practice	# of practices	Cost-Share \$	Tons of Soil Saved	Acres Served	Extents Installed
Seeding	1	\$897.31	255	8.5	8.5 acres
Terraces w/UGO	3	\$54,221.52	1285	70.48	16,010 ft
Structures	1	\$7,425.19	170	20	3,294 cu yd
Sediment Basin	1	\$11,627.09	270	16.6	1,369 cu yd
Waterway	2	\$2,360.89	450	11.5	.9 acres
Nutrient Mgmt	3	\$3,496	N/A	175	N/A
Total	11	\$80,028	2,430	301.88	

This data reflects cost-share practices that are complete and claims processed. It does not include practices that are currently under construction or not started yet.

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Experts talk soil health—Newsletter article #4

Written and produced by USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service

For maximum benefit, mix it up, cover crop expert recommends

There's a reason most farmers who start with single species cover crops eventually move to mixes.

"Some of the most innovative cover crop users have continued to experiment with as many as 8 - 15 different cover crops in mixtures on their farms, to see what each contributes to their system," says David Lamm of the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). "These farmers are breathing new life into their soils, with no-till and cover crop mixes, and they're telling us they're getting all kinds of benefits. A universal result is increased nutrient cycling, and in many cases a reduction in supplemental fertility is achievable."

Lamm, the leader for the NRCS National Soil Health and Sustainability Team in Greensboro, North Carolina, points to three of the top advantages to using mixtures:

1. No one species can deliver all the advantages multiple cover crops deliver in combination. Some fix nitrogen, some are very good at scavenging leftover nitrogen in the soil, and some have deep roots that extend benefits deeper into the soil profile. Still others help control specific weeds or attract beneficial insects, etc.
2. Each plant species offers a different chemical signature to the soil through the rhizosphere, which provides a different food source for bacteria and fungi in the soil. More variety in the food source creates the habitat for a greater variety of soil organisms—most of which have a positive impact within the soil.
3. Organic matter production is put on the fast track. A diversity of plants above ground creates underground habitat with a healthy balance of predator and prey organisms in the soil. The balance results in improved nutrient cycling.

"We need to think about the organisms in the soil that cycle nutrients," Lamm says. "Adding a diversity of roots to a soil that has seen only monoculture crops can awaken and ignite those organisms."

For more information on how to "Unlock the Secrets in Your Soil," call or visit your local USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service office or visit www.nrcs.usda.gov.

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Upcoming Events

Holiday Closings

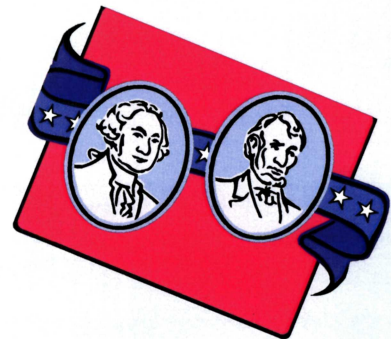
1/1/15 New Year's Day
1/19/15 Martin Luther King, Jr Day
2/16/15 President's Day

Events

1/12/15-2/20/15 Poster Contest
3/9/15 SWCD Annual Meeting



conserving
natural resources
for our future



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Questions or Comments?

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